

GOP presidential candidates debate again

by UPI

MANCHESTER, N.H. -- The 10 Republicans who would be president converged in New Hampshire Tuesday evening for the first debate in the first primary state.

Asked by CNN debate facilitator Wolf Blitzer whether they thought going to war was a mistake, knowing what they know now, the candidates gave varied responses.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney replied that the decision was made and "at this stage the right thing is to see if we can stabilize the central government."

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said it was not an error. Sen. John McCain said the war was right to start but has been mismanaged. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas pinned the reason for the war a decision to protect U.S. oil interests.

California Congressman Duncan Hunter said the U.S. should work to stop Iran from facilitating the shipment of "deadly equipment" into Iraq. Former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore said he favors talking with Iran with the help of European allies.

Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas proposed solving the Iraq crisis by creating three states -- Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish -- with Baghdad as the capital.

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